

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13 L-03
NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 ACDA-12 /094 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:GTBOUTIN
APPROVED BY EUR/EE:WHLUERS
EUR/EE:NGANDREWS
EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT
C:RFHOPPER
EUR/SOV:KBROWN

-----020172 051655Z /11/21

R 040241Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 168755

(CORRECTED COPY (LINE 4 PARA 7 OMMITED))

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PINT, HU, UR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF HUNGARIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NAGY

1. HUNGARIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER JANOS NAGY WAS ACCOMPANIED TO WASHINGTON BY AMBASSADOR JANOS PETRAN, CHIEF OF HUNGARY'S DELEGATION TO THE BELGRADE CSCE CONFERENCE, AND BY MIKLOS REVESZ, THE US DESK OFFICER IN THE HUNGARIAN MFA. HUNGARY'S AMBASSADOR TO THE US, FERENC ESZTERGALYOS, ACCOMPANIED THE DELEGATION THROUGH ITS CROWDED WASHINGTON SCHEDULE.
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2. ULE. THIS CABLE REPORTS THAT PART OF THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON JUNE 29 WITH COUNSELOR NIMETZ AND DAS LUERS WHICH CONCERNED ITSELF WITH US-SOVIET RELATIONS.

2. US-SOVIET RELATIONS - NAGY DISCUSSED US-SOVIET RELATIONS, INCLUDING SALT AND MBFR, DURING MUCH OF HIS MEETING WITH COUNSELOR NIMETZ AND WITH DAS LUERS WHO FILLED IN FOR THE

FIRST FORTY-FIVE MINUTES OF THE SCHEDULED DISCUSSION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST. (VEST WAS DELAYED BY A WHITE HOUSE MEETING.) NAGY ASKED BOTH NIMETZ AND LUERS FOR THEIR VIEWS ON THE CURRENT STATE OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS AND PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE. NIMETZ SAID THIS IS A TROUBLESOME PERIOD. EFFORT WILL BE REQUIRED OF BOTH SIDES IF THE RELA-

TIONSHIP IS TO IMPROVE. NIMETZ EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT AREAS OF COMPETITION BETWEEN THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE EXPANDED. THE CHARGES AGAINST US BUSINESSMAN CRAWFORD AND TWO US JOURNALISTS ARE BAD SIGNS. THE SOVIET MILITARY BUILD-UP AND SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA ALL CONTRIBUTE TO A WORSENERD ATMOSPHERE. THERE IS CONCERN ABOUT WHAT MAY HAPPEN AS THE BREZHNEV GENERATION YIELDS THE LEADERSHIP TO YOUNGER LEADERS.

3. LUERS TOLD NAGY THAT THE IMPACT OF US PUBLIC OPINION ON THE US-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP IS IMPORTANT. IN THE PAST THE USG HAS NOT DEALT EFFECTIVELY WITH THESE DOMESTIC INFLUENCES. PRESIDENT CARTER MAY BE THE FIRST PRESIDENT TO TRY TO DEVELOP AN INTEGRATED DOMESTIC-INTERNATIONAL POLICY TOWARD THE SOVIETS. THE PRESIDENT'S ANNAPOLIS SPEECH WAS INTENDED TO HELP ESTABLISH SUCH A POLICY. BOTH NIMETZ AND LUERS NOTED THAT MANY ASPECTS OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS REMAIN GOOD.

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4. SALT - NIMETZ EXPRESSED HOPE THAT A SALT AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED SOON. TWO MAJOR ISSUES AND SEVERAL SMALLER PROBLEMS REMAIN TO BE SOLVED, BUT WE ARE CLOSE ENOUGH TO EXPECT BOTH SIDES TO MAKE AN EXTRA EFFORT TOWARD AGREEMENT. IF THERE IS NO SALT AGREEMENT, THE SITUATION WILL BE MOST UNFORTUNATE. BOTH SIDES MUST COMPROMISE.

5. BOTH NIMETZ AND LUERS TOLD NAGY THAT THEY HAVE BEEN SPEAKING IN CITIES AROUND THE US ABOUT THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS. LUERS SAID THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT DOES NOT APPRECIATE THE DOMESTIC EFFORTS WE HAVE BEEN MAKING ON BEHALF OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS.

SOVIETS SEEM CONCERNED THAT THE PRESIDENT IS NOT OUT IN FRONT ON THE SALT DISCUSSIONS, BUT THEY SHOULD REALIZE THAT THE PRESIDENT CANNOT TAKE THE LEAD UNTIL SOME AGREEMENT IS REACHED. IF WE AGREE ON SALT II WE WILL MOVE IMMEDIATELY TO START NEGOTIATIONS ON SALT III.

6. MBFR - NAGY ASKED NIMETZ ABOUT MBFR. NIMETZ REPLIED THAT THERE HAS BEEN A STEP FORWARD RECENTLY, BUT DIFFICULT ISSUES REMAIN. OUR WESTERN EUROPEAN ALLIES HAVE REAL CON-

CERNS ABOUT SUCH THINGS AS THE SS-20 AND THE BUILD-UP OF SOVIET TANKS. LUERS SAID WE MUST FIND SOME AGREEMENT ON HOW TO COUNT FORCES BEFORE WE CAN AGREE ON REDUCTIONS.

7. THE HUNGARIAN VIEW - NAGY RESPONDED TO MOST OF THE POINTS MADE BY LUERS AND NIMETZ. HE NOTED THAT THE SOVIETS ARE SUSPICIOUS OF AMERICAN MOTIVES. NO MAJOR CHANGES SHOULD BE EXPECTED AFTER BREZHNEV BECAUSE THERE IS A COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP IN THE SOVIET UNION. THERE IS A PUBLIC OPINION IN THE SOVIET UNION THAT MUST BE CONSIDERED. A SALT AGREEMENT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL BOTH POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY. IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE NOW. A SALT AGREEMENT COULD HAVE A BENEFICIAL RESULT ON THE MBFR DISCUSSIONS. THE GENERAL TREND AT VIENNA IS TOWARD AGREEMENT, CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT "NOT TOMORROW." NAGY SAID HE DID NOT SEE ANY GREAT DISPARITY IN CENTRAL EUROPEAN FORCES. "FIVE HUNDRED OR A THOUSAND TANKS HERE OR THERE IS NOT SO IMPORTANT." WHEN NIMETZ SAID THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S RESTRAINT ON PRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON BOMB IS AN IMPORTANT UNILATERAL MOVE, NAGY RESPONDED THAT THE NEUTRON BOMB IS REALLY TWENTY YEARS OLD. THE SOVIETS ARE NOT PRODUCING IT EITHER. IN HUNGARY'S VIEW IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS THE REDUCTION OF EXISTING WEAPONRY. NAGY SAID OTHER WESTERN LEADERS HAVE TOLD HIM THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT BREZHNEV DOES NOT WANT WAR. THE ONLY SOLUTION NOW IS CONCRETE DISARMAMENT RESULTS. THEN OUR DEFENSE EXPENDITURES COULD BE PUT TO BETTER USE. NAGY SAID HE IS MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN NIMETZ ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF REACHING AN MBFR AGREEMENT PARTICULARLY IF A SALT AGREEMENT IS REACHED. HUNGARY HAS NO GREAT INFLUENCE ON THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. THERE ARE NO SERIOUS DISAGREEMENTS AMONG THE WARSAW PACT PARTICIPANTS IN THE MBFR. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM LUERS, NAGY SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THE RECENT WP PROPOSALS AT VIENNA WERE A RESPONSE TO CARTER'S DECISION ON THE NEUTRON BOMB, BUT HE NOTED THAT IT DID NOT TAKE THE EASTERN PARTICIPANTS "MONTHS" TO AGREE ON THEIR PROPOSALS.

8. THE EFFECT ON US-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS - NIMETZ COMMENTED THAT IT IS INTERESTING THAT US RELATIONS WITH THE EE'S HAVE NOT BEEN AFFECTED BY DAY-TO-DAY PROBLEMS IN US-SOVIET RELATIONS, ALTHOUGH THE HOUSE VOTE ON THE HUNGARIAN TRADE AGREEMENT PROBABLY REFLECTED EAST-WEST ATMOSPHERICS. NAGY SAID THAT HUNGARY WOULD BE UNHAPPY TO LOSE WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED DURING THE LAST EIGHT TO TEN MONTHS, BUT OBVIOUSLY DETERIORATION OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS WILL AFFECT THE US-HUNGARIAN RELATIONSHIP IF IT CONTINUES FOR A LONG PERIOD. NAGY ASKED VEST TO PLEASE TRY TO AVOID ANY SPILLOVER EFFECT CONFIDENTIAL

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ON US-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE168755
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GTBOUTIN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780279-0496
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780797/aaaadefo.tel
Line Count: 176
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dbbc7c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2122151
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF HUNGARIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NAGY
TAGS: PINT, HU, UR, US, CSCE, (NAGY, JANOS), (PETRAN, JANOS), (HAGY, JANOS)
To: BUDAPEST
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dbbc7c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014